

MAR 31 1925

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THE EMPTY SADDLE

Story by
AUTHOR: FORREST SHELDON

DIRECTOR: HARRY S. WEBB

Five Reels

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LARIAT PICTURES CORPORATION

*****SYNOPSIS*****

As the story opens three boyhood friends and partners Bob Kingston, Frank Carson and Jimmie Manning have just concluded the sale of a mine which they jointly own to a large mining syndicate. This deal has brought them to their rainbow's end, after years of untiring struggle with the desert wastes.

Bob and Frank have loved Mary, Jimmie's sister since they were boys together and when they had left the home town to seek their fortune they had promised each other that when the day came for her to choose between them, the loser would remain as a friend. And that time had now come. Even now Mary was speeding to them and with her arrival they would know their fate.

While the two are standing occupied by these thoughts, Jimmie, a weakling, who Bob and Frank had hoped to reform for Mary's sake, sneaks away and makes for town to get on his usual drunk at the Black Raven, the leading den of iniquity of the border town of Texicano. Discovering Jimmie's absence and knowing where he is bound Bob leaves at once for town so as to prevent Jimmie from getting drunk as his sister will arrive in the morning.

Bob arrives at the Black Raven to find Jimmie already well started on his drunk and the only way he can get him away is to knock him cold, which he does and then carries him over to the hotel and puts him to bed so that he can sober up.

Frank has also arrived in town and it can be seen that troubled thoughts assail him as he goes towards a small cottage where lives Conchita a fiery young senorita who lives with her old father. Here is where Frank has sought secret amusement, and he now wishes to break off the affair, since Mary is soon to arrive. Although it is his intention to tell her pointblank that their affair is at an end, he leaves without fulfilling his mission as he realizes that this girl is madly in love with him and dangerous and must be handled with kid gloves.

The following morning Mary arrives and as Bob and Frank escort her to the hotel they encounter a crowd gathered.

there and the tragic news is given to them that Jimmie's body has just been brought in from the Concho road, dead. His horse had come into town the saddle empty and streaked with blood, and the sheriff had gone to investigate and found the body of the unfortunate boy lying in the middle of the road. And what is more Bob is accused of having killed him. His fight with Jimmie on the previous evening in saloon is brought up and the crowd filled with blood-lust are in a mood for hanging, but the sheriff manages to get Bob away and to the jail in time to avoid lynching.

The mob however again forms and the sheriff deeming that his prisoner will not be safe in the small jail in town, makes plans to take him to the state penitentiary which is located in the middle of the desert a short distance from Texicano. The place is one of those hell-holes of the old Arizona days.

A strange change has come about in Frank. Instead of trying to help one who is his pal, he secretly incites the mob against Bob. Also he diplomatically condemns Bob in Mary's eyes, as the girl who really loves Bob cannot believe him guilty. The crowd, learning of the sheriff's intentions to remove the prisoner from about the jail, but the sheriff starts to take Bob out the back way. Bob, brokenhearted and not caring for his life, breaks away from the sheriff and rushing out faces the mob and tells them to take him. The sheriff thinking his prisoner has gone mad is forced to knock him out and drag him back into the jail, and finally he gets him away and starts for the penitentiary.

In the meantime, Conchita who seems to have a secret hold on Carson since the tragedy learns that Frank is dealing double with her and she goes to Mary and makes a confession that it was not Bob, but Frank Carson who killed her brother. That Jimmie having learned of their affair had denounced Carson for having carried on the affair while professing to love his sister and Carson had killed him to close his mouth so that he could not communicate news of his affair to Mary. Instantly Mary notifies the sheriff.

In the meantime, Carson has gone to the penitentiary to get Bob's signature to the papers which will complete the sale of the mine. While he is there the warden tells him that he has just received a telephone call from the sheriff, to hold him until further notice. Carson panic-stricken as all guilty men are and believing that his guilt has been found out tries to bluff his way out but is put in a cell which happens to be the next to Bob's.

The prisoner that had formerly occupied that cell that Frank now occupies had just about made plans to escape when he was pardoned but before he left, he managed to communicate this fact to Bob, and the latter was just removing the stone that lead into the adjoining cell when Frank was placed therein. For a moment as the two looked into each other's eyes, Frank was terrified but he managed to conceal his feelings from the pal he had so foully cheated, and told Bob that he was arrested because he resented the words of one who had called him (Bob) a murderer. Believing that Mary loves Frank, Bob gives up his chance to escape and turns his opportunity over to Frank. Just as he is helping him to escape the sheriff and posse arrive and Bob is bewildered when he learns the truth-the treachery of Frank and the fact that he has helped the real murderer to escape. He pleads to be put on his honor

in order to get Frank, this is granted him and he goes after Frank and after a fight captures and brings him back.

So justice is done and Bob received his reward in Mary and the wealth that the mine brings.

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Dated at Washington, D.C.

April 2nd, 19 25

Register of Copyrights,
Library of Congress,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The undersigned claimant of copyright in the work herein named,
deposited in the Copyright Office and duly registered for copyright protection,
requests the return to him under the provisions of sections 59 and 60 of the Act of March 4, 1909, of one or both of the deposited copies of the

Photo-play entitled

"THE EMPTY SADDLE"

deposited in the Copyright Office on March 31st, 1925. and registered
under Class XXc., No. ©CL 24287.

If this request can be granted you are asked and authorized to send
the said copy or copies to me at the following address:

VITAGRAPH INC., or
to
at 928 New Jersey Avenue, Washington, D.C.

Signed Eddie Phillips
(Claimant of Copyright)
Vitagraph Inc.

(Sept., 1924—500)

APR 2 1925

Eddie Phillips

APR 2 - 1005

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